

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Youth Tobacco and Nicotine Cessation Task Force to study the effects and impacts of nicotine use by persons under twenty-one years of age.

WHEREAS, the growing use of nicotine products, including e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, among persons under the age of twenty-one is a significant public health concern; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health a significant percentage of youth in Louisiana, particularly high school students, are current tobacco users; and

WHEREAS, while overall tobacco use has decreased among high school students, e-cigarette use has increased substantially with 2019 data indicating that 28.9% of Louisiana high school students were current tobacco users, and 14.0% of middle school students were tobacco users, with e-cigarette use more than doubling the use of other tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, recent data indicates that Louisiana has a higher smoking rate among high school students than the national average with 2021 data indicating 7.0% of high school students in Louisiana smoked cigarettes on at least one day in the past 30 days, compared to 3.8% nationally; and

WHEREAS, the health risks associated with early nicotine exposure are well-documented, including impacts on brain development, increased likelihood of addiction, and long-term health consequences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Youth Tobacco and Nicotine Cessation Task Force to study the effects of all tobacco and nicotine products, including but not limited to the use of all vapor products and tobacco products by persons under twenty-one years of age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) The governor, or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- (6) The superintendent of the state Department of Education, or his designee.
- (7) The commissioner of the office of alcohol and tobacco control, or his designee.
- (8) Two representatives of the Louisiana Hospital Association, selected by the president of the association.
- (9) The executive director of the Rural Hospital Coalition, or his designee.
- (10) The director of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, or his designee.
- (11) The president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, or his designee.
- (12) The president of the American Lung Association, or his designee.
- (13) The president of the American Heart Association, or his designee.
- (14) The president of the Louisiana School Boards Association, or his designee.
- (15) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, or his designee.
- (16) A representative of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, selected by the chair of the council.
- (17) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Wholesalers, or his designee.
- (18) The president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall identify the prevalence of vaping and use of other tobacco products among the under twenty-one population, including demographic data and usage trends across regions and socioeconomic groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall identify pathways worth pursuing to address youth tobacco and nicotine use including but not limited to:

- (1) The initiation and onset of all product usage.
- (2) The short- and long-term health outcomes related to tobacco and nicotine consumption.
- (3) The enforcement of existing underage sales restrictions.
- (4) Best practices for preventing usage on school grounds and in community settings.
- (5) Taxation strategies as a deterrent to youth access and affordability.
- (6) Access to evidence-based cessation products, treatment programs, and public education campaigns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its study the task force shall review existing case studies, public health data, and academic literature concerning youth tobacco and nicotine use, including:

- (1) Studies demonstrating the physical, psychological, behavioral, and academic impacts of nicotine use on individuals under the age of twenty-one.
- (2) Research identifying how and why youth initiate use of tobacco and vapor products, including social influences, peer behavior, accessibility, targeted marketing, and environmental factors.
- (3) Scientific findings on the neurological and developmental vulnerability of youth due to tobacco and nicotine addiction.
- (4) Prevention studies that evaluate the effectiveness of early intervention, school-based education, public health campaigns, and community programs in reducing youth tobacco and nicotine use.
- (5) National averages and trend data on youth nicotine and tobacco product use, including comparisons to Louisiana-specific rates and demographic breakdowns.
- (6) A comparative review of prevention and cessation programs implemented in other states, including models that have demonstrated success in reducing youth initiation and promoting long-term cessation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall use this comprehensive evidence base to guide its recommendations, with the goal of identifying actionable, effective, and appropriate strategies for prevention, cessation, and policy development tailored to Louisiana's youth population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its study, the task force shall consider regulatory and policy approaches that do not unduly burden responsible businesses or infringe on the rights of adults who choose to legally use tobacco or nicotine products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff support to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than January 1, 2026.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE